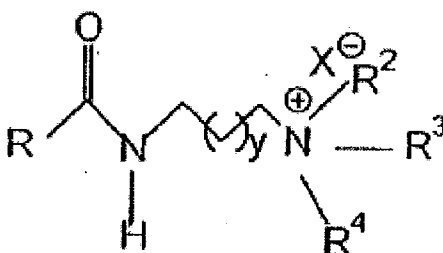


Amendments to the Claims

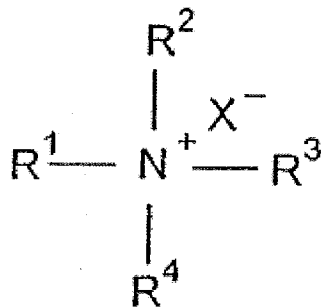
1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (previously presented) The method of Claim 15 wherein said cationic surfactant has the following general structure:



wherein R is saturated or unsaturated alkyl and y is an integer from 1 to 12.

7. (previously presented) The method of Claim 6 wherein R has from about 6 to about 26 carbon atoms.
8. (previously presented) The method of Claim 6 wherein R has from about 12 to about 22 carbon atoms.
9. (previously presented) The method of Claim 6 wherein R is erucyl.

10. (previously presented) The method of Claim 6 wherein y is 1.
11. (previously presented) The method of Claim 6 wherein said cationic surfactant is isostearylamidopropylmorpholine.
12. (canceled)
13. (original) The method of Claim 15 wherein said aqueous based hydraulic fracturing fluid has thermal stability of greater than about 85° C.
14. (canceled)
15. (previously presented) A method of fracturing a subterranean formation comprising the steps of:
 - i) providing a thickened aqueous based hydraulic fracturing fluid, comprising:
 - a) an aqueous medium; and
 - b) about 0.1 wt-% to about 4 wt-% of at least one cationic surfactant having the following general structure:



wherein R¹ is alkyl amine alkylene, or alkyl amido alkylene, R² and R³ are each alkyl, hydroxyl alkyl, polyalkoxy with the degree of polymerization ranging from 2 to 30, hydroxyl alkyl sulfonate, alkyl sulfonate or alkylarylsulfonate; R⁴ is hydrocarbon, saturated or unsaturated; or wherein any two of R², R³ and R⁴,

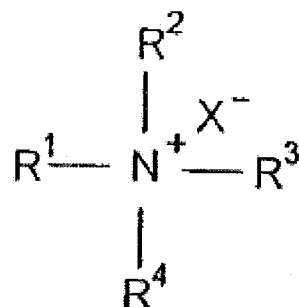
together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a heterocyclic ring; and X is selected from the group consisting of halides; oxo ions of phosphorus, sulfur or chloride; and organic anions; and

- c) at least one additive selected from organic salts, inorganic salts, organic acids, alcohols, and mixtures thereof; and

II. pumping the aqueous fracturing fluid through a wellbore and into a subterranean formation at a pressure sufficient to fracture the formation.

- 16. (previously presented) The method of Claim 15 wherein said fracturing fluid comprises at least one additive selected from organic acids, and/or organic salts.
- 17. (previously presented) The method of Claim 15 wherein said additive is selected from sulfates, sulfonates, or salicylates.
- 18. (original) The method of Claim 16 wherein said additive comprises at least one aromatic group.
- 19. (original) The method of Claim 16 wherein said additive is an aromatic sulfonate.
- 20. (original) The method of Claim 15 wherein said gel has a thermal stability up to temperatures of about 110° C.
- 21. (original) The method of Claim 15 wherein said fracturing fluid has thermal stability of greater than about 90° C.
- 22. (original) The method of Claim 15 wherein said fracturing fluid comprises from about 0.05% to about 10% by weight of said cationic surfactant.
- 23. (canceled)
- 24. (canceled)

25. (canceled)
26. (canceled)
27. (canceled)
28. (canceled)
29. (canceled)
30. (canceled)
31. (previously presented) An oil field high brine completion fluid comprising:
 - a) about 30 wt-% to about 70 wt-% of at least one inorganic or organic salt; and
 - b) about 0.1 wt-% to about 4 wt-% of at least one cationic surfactant having the following general structure:



wherein R^1 is alkyl amine alkylene, or alkyl amido alkylene; R^2 and R^3 are each alkyl, hydroxyl alkyl, polyalkoxy with the degree of polymerization ranging from 2 to 30, hydroxyl alkyl sulfonate, alkyl sulfonate or alkylarylsulfonate; R^4 is hydrocarbon, saturated or unsaturated; or wherein any two of R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a heterocyclic ring; and X^- is selected from the group consisting of halides; oxo ions of phosphorous, sulfur or chloride; and organic anions.

32. (previously presented) The fluid of Claim 31 further comprising at least one additive selected from inorganic salts, organic salts, organic acids, alcohols, or mixtures thereof.
33. (previously presented) The fluid of Claim 31 wherein the viscosity of said fluid increases when the temperature is increased and decreases when the temperature is decreased.
34. (previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said cationic surfactant is erucyl amidopropyltrimethyl ammonium quaternary salt, and said additive is sodium xylene sulfonate.
35. (currently amended) A well drilling operation, coil-tubing operation, construction operation, or mining operation which comprises
suspending particles in a thickened aqueous liquid, the method comprising the steps of:
I) providing an aqueous medium; and
II) adding to said aqueous medium, an effective amount of at least one cationic surfactant and at least one additive sufficient to increase the viscosity of said aqueous medium
The method of claim 23 wherein said cationic surfactant is erucyl amidopropyltrimethyl ammonium quaternary salt, and said additive is sodium xylene sulfonate, and
wherein said aqueous liquid is sufficiently thickened to suspend solid particulate matter, and wherein said particulate matter is cutting material, proppant material or mixtures thereof.
36. (previously presented) The high brine completion fluid of claim 32 wherein said cationic surfactant is erucyl amidopropyltrimethyl ammonium quaternary salt, and said additive is sodium xylene sulfonate.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein in R^1 , the alkyl group contains 1-26 carbon atoms and the alkylene group contains 1-8 carbon atoms.
38. (canceled)
39. (previously presented) The completion fluid of claim 31 wherein in R^1 , the alkyl group contains 1-26 carbon atoms and the alkylene group contains 1-8 carbon atoms.